TEACHER’S GUIDE

GRADES 3-4
YEAR 3 | SPRING

Sunday School

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I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12  
(NIV 1984)
What gift did God give the Ethiopian man?

God gave the Ethiopian man the gift of faith in his Savior.

Application: God wants all people of the world to hear the gospel.

Response: We support missionaries who are spreading God’s Word in other countries with our encouragement, prayers, and offerings.

Lesson Summary: While Philip was preaching in Samaria, God sent him to the road going south from Jerusalem to Gaza. There Philip met a man from Ethiopia who was reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip explained God’s Word and told the man about the Savior. The Ethiopian man believed God’s Word and was baptized.

Mark 16:15
* 1 Timothy 2:3,4
* The Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer
* Hymn 573:1,4


Locate Jerusalem, Gaza, Azotus, and Caesarea on a map.

Dear God, you have taught us all that we need to know for salvation. Help me teach your children to share the message of salvation with all people, including those who seem different from them. Amen.
Sing: Sing “Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying” (hymn 573:1,2,4). This hymn reminds us that Jesus calls us all to do his work of spreading God’s Word so that others may be brought to faith.

Pray: Dear Father, teach us to use our feet to go and tell about the things you have done for all people. Cause those who hear your Word to believe it so that they may know Jesus as their eternal Savior. We pray in his name. Amen.

You will need a gift-wrapped box with a sign inside displaying these words: Faith in Jesus as the Savior.

Display the gift-wrapped box, and say, “We all like to receive gifts, don’t we? What do you think might be in this box?” (Allow several guesses.) Tell the children that later they’ll find out what kind of gift is in the box. Set the box aside to use in the Discuss section.

In today’s lesson you’ll learn about an Ethiopian man (see important information in the alternate Introduce). He received a very special gift. This lesson will answer the question, What gift did God give the Ethiopian man?

Note: Remember there are To Do at Home activity options in a separate file on the Teacher’s Guide CD.
Like Stephen, **Philip was one of the seven men** who had been **chosen to help the apostles** with their work. When Saul began persecuting believers, **Philip left Jerusalem** and **went to** a city in **Samaria**. There he **told the people about Jesus** and **performed miracles** in Jesus’ name. **Many men and women believed** Philip’s message and **were baptized**.

One day **God sent an angel to Philip**. The angel told him, “Get up and go south to the road that runs from Jerusalem through the desert to Gaza.” Philip left Samaria and headed south as he was told.

As he **walked along** the road, he **saw a man from Ethiopia** riding in his chariot. He was an **important man** in his country because he was **in charge of** all the **queen’s money**. He had been **in Jerusalem to worship** at the temple and was now **on his way back** home. As he **rode along** in his chariot, he was **reading from a book of the Bible**—the book written by the **prophet Isaiah**.

The **Holy Spirit told Philip**, “Catch up with that chariot and walk along beside it.”

Philip **ran up** to the chariot and **heard the man reading** aloud from the book of Isaiah. He asked the man, “**Do you understand the meaning of what you are reading?**”

“How can I understand it,” the Ethiopian replied, “**unless someone explains it to me?**” He then **invited Philip** to climb up into the chariot and **ride along** with him.

This was the part of Scripture the Ethiopian was reading:

> “He was led away like a sheep that is to be killed, and as a lamb is silent before the man who cuts off its wool, so he did not open his mouth.”

The man asked Philip, “**Tell me, who was the prophet talking about in these words**—himself or someone else?” So **Philip explained** that Isaiah was talking **about the Savior**, who would **suffer and die** for the sins of all people. He **showed** the Ethiopian that **Jesus was the Lamb of God**—the promised Savior about whom Isaiah had written. Then **Philip told** the man **all that Jesus had done** to save sinners.
You will need the word cards from Copy Master 2, cut apart. You will also need two paper lunch bags—one labeled “same” and the other “different.”

**Ask** By using Philip to share God’s Word and baptize the man, what gift did God give the man from Ethiopia? [The gift of faith in Jesus.]

**Say** Think about Philip and the man from Ethiopia. In some ways the two men were quite different from each other, but in some ways they were the same.

**Do** Lay the word cards face-down on a table in front of you, and place the two lunch bags near them. Have volunteers take turns coming to the front of the room. Each volunteer should pick up one word card and read it to the class. If the card names a way Philip and the man from Ethiopia were the same, the child should put it in the bag labeled “same.” If the card names a way they were different, the child should put it in the “different” bag. [Answers: Same—human being, sinful, loved by God, saved by Jesus. Different—home country, appearance, culture and customs, occupation (job).]

**Say** When Philip met the man from Ethiopia, the man probably asked, “Look!” the Ethiopian exclaimed. “Here is some water. Is there any reason why I shouldn’t be baptized?”

He ordered the driver of the chariot to stop. Then the Ethiopian went down to the water with Philip, and Philip baptized him.

When they stepped out of the water, God suddenly took Philip away. But the man’s heart was filled with joy as he continued on the long road home to Ethiopia. He had learned to know Jesus as his Savior.

Meanwhile, Philip found himself in a city called Azotus. He traveled through all the towns around there until he arrived at Caesarea. And everywhere he went, he preached the good news that Jesus is the Savior.

You will need a world map, publications that describe current mission work and/or pictures relating to foreign mission work, and a gift-wrapped box prepared as described in the Introduce section.

**Say** Philip told people about Jesus, and many people believed his message and were baptized.

**Ask** Who caused all these people to come to faith? [The Holy Spirit.]

**Say** One day God sent an angel to tell Philip to go to the road that went from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip left immediately.

**Ask** What does this show us about Philip? [He was ready to do whatever God wanted him to do.]

Whom did Philip see as he walked along? [A man from Ethiopia in a chariot.]

**Say** This man had been to Jerusalem to worship in the temple.

**Ask** What does this tell us about the Ethiopian man? [He already knew something about the Old Testament Scriptures. He wanted to worship God.]

**Do** Point out that God sent Philip to meet a man from a different country. Ask the children to list countries where there are people whom God wants to hear his Word. As the children name countries, point to them on a world map or have the children locate them. As each country is located, point out that God wants the people of that country to hear his Word.
Emphasize that God wants all people of the world to hear that Jesus is their Savior.

**Ask** What was the man reading as he rode along? [A part of the book of Isaiah.]

What does this show us about him? [He wanted to learn more about God’s Word.]

**Say** The Holy Spirit told Philip to catch up to the chariot, and Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading.

**Ask** What did the Ethiopian man then invite Philip to do? [To ride along in the chariot.]

Why did he ask Philip to come into his chariot? [He wanted Philip to explain God’s Word to him.]

**Say** The man was reading these words: “He was led away like a sheep that is to be killed, and as a lamb is silent before the man who cuts off its wool, so he did not open his mouth.”

**Ask** How did Jesus fulfill these words? [Jesus willingly let his enemies crucify him.]

**Say** The man from Ethiopia asked whom Isaiah was talking about.

**Ask** Why didn’t the man understand these words? [He didn’t know that Jesus is the Savior, who fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies.]

**Say** Philip then used God’s Word to tell the Ethiopian man the good news about Jesus.

**Ask** What do we call a person today who travels to a different part of the world to tell people about Jesus? [Missionary.]

**Do** Ask the children what we can do to help support our missionaries as they preach God’s Word to all people. Use a word web to list their responses on the board. An example follows:

- **Give mission offerings.**
- **Pray for our missionaries.**
- **Share God’s Word around the world.**
- **Send cards or letters to encourage missionaries.**
- **Think about becoming a missionary some day.**

seemed very different from him. The Ethiopian man probably had a different skin color and different type of clothing. He might have spoken with a different accent and had different ways of doing everyday things.

**Do** Ask the children whether they have ever met people who seemed very different from them. Discuss the many ways people are different from one another, including such things as race, culture, language, disabilities, and the like. Then have them look up and read or recite the 1 Timothy 2:3,4 memory treasure.

**Ask** What does God want for all people of the world? [He wants all people to hear the gospel message—that Jesus is the Savior—and be saved.]

**Do** Have the children read or recite the Mark 16:15 memory treasure.

**Ask** What command has Jesus given to us and all believers? [He wants us to share the gospel with all the world.]

**Do** Make two columns on the board, labeled “Nearby” and “Far Away.” Ask the children to name ways we can help spread the gospel to all people—including those who are different from us—whether they are nearby or...
far away. List their ideas on the board. [Examples: Nearby—invite a neighbor to church, give a Bible story book to a friend. Far away—give mission offerings, pray for missionaries, send things they need.]

You will need a world map (or a map that at least shows Africa and Israel).

Do Ask a child to point out the Promised Land—the land where God’s people, the Jews, lived. [Israel.] Then ask another child to point out where the man in today’s story lived. [The area of the border between Egypt and Sudan.]

Ask Even though he was from another country, what gift did the Ethiopian man receive from God? [God gave the Ethiopian man the gift of faith in his Savior.]

Say God wants all people of the world to hear the gospel. Let’s support missionaries who are spreading God’s Word in other countries with our encouragement, prayers, and offerings.

Do Sing “Good News of God Above” (hymn 568.1-3). This hymn encourages us to spread the good news (the gospel) near and far.

Ask What did the Ethiopian man ask when he saw some water? [Why shouldn’t I be baptized?]

Why did he want to be baptized? [He believed what Philip was teaching him about God’s Word.]

Say After Philip baptized the man, God suddenly took Philip away. Yet the man was very happy.

Ask Why was the man so happy? [He had learned about his Savior.]

What will be the result of God’s Word being preached all over the world? [Where God’s Word is preached, people will come to faith in Jesus as their Savior.]

Do Show publications that describe current mission work and/or pictures relating to foreign mission work, and give brief descriptions of the missions shown. Then bring out the gift-wrapped box. Say that it is a gift God wants all people of the world to have. Have a child open the box and display the sign. Emphasize to the children that just as they are learning about Jesus, people all over the world are hearing God’s Word and being given the gift of faith in Jesus as their Savior.

CLOSE

Ask What is the most important gift anyone can receive? Why? [Faith in Jesus as our Savior is the most important gift, because without it no one can go to heaven.]

What gift did God give the Ethiopian man? [God gave the Ethiopian man the gift of faith in his Savior.]

What does God want all people of the world to hear? [God wants all people of the world to hear the gospel.]

Say We support missionaries who are spreading God’s Word in other countries with our encouragement, prayers, and offerings.

Do Pray: Heavenly Father, give us the desire to share the gospel with all people. Give our missionaries around the world the strength to preach your Word so that many people may come to faith in Jesus as their Savior. Amen.
Mark 16:15

* 1 Timothy 2:3,4

**The Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer**

Your kingdom come.

In this petition we pray that God’s kingdom would come to us and all people as we spread his Word.

**Hymn 573:1,4**

1 Hark! The voice of Jesus crying,
   “Who will go and work today?
   Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;
   Who will bear the sheaves away?”
   Loud and long the Master calleth;
   Rich reward he offers thee.
   Who will answer, gladly saying,
   “Here am I—send me, send me”?

4 Let none hear you idly saying,
   “There is nothing I can do,”
   While the multitudes are dying,
   And the Master calls for you.
   Take the task he gives you gladly;
   Let his work your pleasure be.
   Answer quickly when he calleth,
   “Here am I—send me, send me!”

Don’t be afraid to talk openly about issues of race and prejudice. The children are aware that others around them are of different races. Talk about the fact that we all were created by God and he loves us all, no matter what our races are.

*Begin by praying the prayer “For Missionaries” found on page 135 in the hymnal.*

*Use Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the story.*

*Use Activity 4 to remind the children that God wants us to spread his Word to all people.*

(Alternate activity: Watch a video to learn more about the work of WELS missionaries around the world. Videos are often available to view on the WELS Web site, www.wels.net.)

*Close by singing “From Greenland’s Icy Mountains” (hymn 571:1,3), which expresses the desire that God’s Word be spread to all nations of the world.*
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Partner Practice
Purpose: To review the lesson events by telling the story to partners.

Procedure: Give the children duplicates of Copy Master 1 (preferably printed on card stock). Let them cut out the figures of Philip, the Ethiopian man, and the chariot. Then have them practice using the figures to tell the story briefly to partners. Remind them to tell also what gift God gave the Ethiopian man. Encourage the children to take the figures home and tell the story to family members and friends.

2. Application

Research Activity
Purpose: To help the children better understand the need for sharing the gospel around the world.

Procedure: Encourage the children to use resources at home to research the religious beliefs of people in other countries and then tell the class what they learned. Lead the children to see the need for sharing the gospel in each country. If you’ve marked our synod’s world missions on the map on Copy Master 2, Lesson 11, use that map to see if WELS has a mission in each country mentioned.

3. Music

“People of the World”
Purpose: To remind the children that all people of the world need to learn to know and praise Jesus.

Procedure: Teach the children to sing “People of the World” (Copy Masters 3.1 and 3.2). This song talks about how all people of the world need to praise Jesus, and it gives the children the opportunity to say thank you to Jesus in five different languages.

4. Art

Go Into All the World
Purpose: To make a large reminder to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Procedure: Use the figure on Copy Master 4 (enlarge if desired) to make patterns on poster board. Have each child trace the figure on construction paper using the poster board patterns. Provide resources containing pictures from around the world of people wearing different types of clothing. Have the children use the pictures as guides to cut clothing out of scraps of construction paper to glue onto their figures. Display the figures on a bulletin board or wall with the words “Go Into All the World.” (If desired, an outline of a map of the world could be drawn on background paper.)

5. Review and Apply

Go Tell All People
Purpose: To identify true and false statements about the lesson and complete a summary of how we can support our missionaries.

Procedure: Have each child complete Copy Master 5. The answers are as follows:


Part Two: prayers, offerings, encouragement

Let All People Know (Challenge)
Purpose: To identify true sentences about the lesson, correct false sentences, and express an understanding of the fact that God wants all people to be saved.

Procedure: Have each child complete Copy Master 6. The answers are as follows:

Part Two: Answers will vary, but should convey that God loves all people and wants all people to be saved, regardless of skin color, disability, or country.

6. Other Ideas

**Writing to Missionaries’ Children**

*Purpose:* To give the children an opportunity to encourage missionaries and their families.

*Procedure:* Tell the children that living in a mission country can sometimes be difficult and even discouraging. Have them make cards or write letters of encouragement to send to children of missionary families. (Addresses of WELS missionaries can be obtained through the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society.) Tell the children that the missionary children may not have time to answer their cards and letters. The purpose of this activity is to encourage the missionaries and their families.